

## REMARKS

The present application was filed on November 22, 2000 with claims 1-29. Claim 8 was canceled in a previous amendment. Claims 1-7 and 9-29 remain pending.

The Examiner continues to ignore repeated requests from the Applicant for an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form previously filed herein with an Information Disclosure Statement (“IDS”) on May 10, 2000. Applicant explicitly raised this issue in his previous two responses, but nonetheless the Examiner has yet again failed to address it. Copies of the IDS and PTO-1449 as filed are once again attached, along with a copy of a return postcard stamped by the USPTO indicating receipt of the IDS, the PTO-1449 and the cited references. Applicant once again respectfully requests that the Examiner return an appropriate initialed PTO-1449 form to Applicant with the next office communication.

Claims 1-7 and 9-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicant respectfully traverses the §101 rejection. Reconsideration of the present application is requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks to follow.

The statute in question indicates that a patent may be obtained for “any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof.”

The Examiner argues that claims 1-7 and 9-29 “are directed to number handling without any recitation of actual implementation in the physical nature.” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method of providing user anonymity in conjunction with transactions conducted over a network. Applicant notes that such transactions occurring over a network are inherently physical in nature, in that they necessarily involve the transmission of physical signals over a network. The method calls for establishing an association in an intermediary machine between real identity information for a particular user and corresponding alias identity information for the user, supplying at least a portion of the alias identity information from the intermediary machine to a machine associated with a web site operator in conjunction with an action by the user, and providing intermediary payment authorization information to the web site operator machine in conjunction with an online transaction involving the user, such that the user is able to enter into the transaction without the real identity information being disclosed to the web site

operator. The intermediary machine and the machine associated with the web site operator are physical entities, of a type explicitly referred to in the statute. The recited operations are accordingly operations involving physical entities.

The claim further recites that the intermediary machine stores a plurality of intermediary payment card numbers of differing expirations, the intermediary payment card numbers being payment card numbers of the intermediary machine and not of the particular user, and selects a particular one of the plurality of intermediary payment card numbers for use as the intermediary payment authorization information based at least in part on the expiration relative to the time of the online transaction. Such machine storage and machine selection operations are necessarily physical operations.

Accordingly, it is believed that the subject matter recited in claim 1 is clearly within the statutory bounds defined by §101.

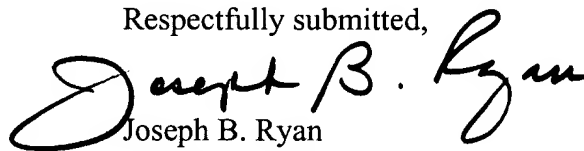
The remaining claims 2-7 and 9-29 are believed compliant with the statute for reasons similar to those identified above.

Notwithstanding the traversal, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, 11, 14, 28 and 29 to clarify that certain operations are implemented using physical elements, such as a processor and a memory. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, page 8, line 29, to page 9, line 2, and page 24, lines 15-20.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-7 and 9-29 as amended are believed to be in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



Joseph B. Ryan  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 37,922  
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP  
90 Forest Avenue  
Locust Valley, NY 11560  
(516) 759-7517

Enclosure(s): Copy of Previously-Filed PTO-1449 Form  
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